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International Patent Application PCT/EP2004/011979
Applicant: Borealis Technology Oy

With reference to the official communication dated November 4, 2005 it is hereby requested to replace claims 1-10, as filed in the submission of May 19, 2005, by new claims 1-10 enclosed herewith.

1. Amendment of the claims

1.1 Former claim 10 has been amended such that the feature: "and further having incorporated a compound having hydrosable silane groups". Arguments for this amendment can be found on page 9, last paragraph and page 10, first paragraph: "furthermore, the polymer composition comprising a polyolefin comprising a compound having polar groups and further a compound having hydrosable silane groups ...". Hence, it is demonstrated that the polyolefin of the present invention, as it is described above, can be used in the production of an isolation layer for low voltage power cables. Therefore, the amendment of claim 10 is full supported by the disclosure of the specification.

1.2 Furthermore, according to Rule 88 EPC, the term "group" has been introduced in claim 10. At page 9, last paragraph and page 10, first

paragraph, it is mentioned that the compound has polar groups. Hence, the missing of the word "group" is a clerical error.

2. Unity

2.1 The general concepts links independent claims 1 and 8 with independent claim 10 is now that the polyolefin "comprising 0.02 to 4 mol% of a compound having polar groups and further having incorporated a compound having hydrosable silane groups" However, as it is demonstrated in the submission of May 19, 2005, this specific polyolefine, is neither disclosed in document D1 nor D2. Therefore, subject matter of claim 10 involves the same inventive step as claim 8 and 1 and thus, the subject matter of claim 10 fulfils the requirements of unity of the invention.

3. Novelty/Inventive step

3.1 As it is mentioned above, the polyolefin of claim 10 comprises "polar groups and further having incorporated a compound having hydrosable silane groups" With reference to the above-mentioned comments and the submission of May 19, 2005 neither document D1 nor D2 disclose the use of such polymer. Therefore, the subject matter of present claim 10 is also novel in view of document D1 and D2.

4. Summary

4.1 It can be summarized that the present invention is now novel and involves an inventive step over the disclosure of the prior art documents as cited by the Examiner.

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4.2 It is assumed that considering the above-given comments in the International preliminary report on patentability compliance of the present application with the requirements of the PCT. In particular, novelty and inventive step as unity of the claimed subject matter will be now acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. U. Kador

Encl.

New set of claims

1. A low voltage power cable comprising an insulation layer with a density below 1100 kg/m³ which comprises a polyolefin having incorporated 0.02 to 4 mol% of a compound having polar groups, and further having incorporated a compound having hydrolysable silane groups, and which further comprises 0.0001 to 3 wt% of a silanol condensation catalyst.
2. A low voltage power cable according to claim 1, wherein the polar groups are selected from siloxane, amide, anhydride, carboxylic, carbonyl, hydroxyl, ester and epoxy groups.
3. A low voltage power cable according to claim 2, wherein the compound having polar groups is butyl acrylate.
4. A low voltage power cable according to any of the preceeding claims, wherein the polyolefin comprises 0.1 to 2.0 mol% of the compound having polar groups.
5. A low voltage power cable according to claim 1, wherein the polyolefin comprises 0.001 to 15 wt.% of the compound having silane groups.
6. A low voltage power cable according to claim 1 or 5, wherein the polymer composition further comprises a sulphonic acid or an organic tin compound as a silanol condensation catalyst.
7. A low voltage power cable according to any of the preceeding claims wherein the thickness of the insulation layer is 0.4 to 3 mm.
8. A process for producing a low voltage power cable comprising a conductor and an insulation layer, which layer comprises a polyolefin having incorporated 0.02 to 4 mol% of a compound having polar groups and further having incorporated a compound having hydrolysable silane groups, and which further comprises 0.0001 to 3 wt% of a silanol condensation catalyst, which process comprising extrusion of an

insulation layer on a conductor which is preheated to a maximum temperature of 65 ° C.

9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the extrusion of the insulation layer is performed on the non-preheated conductor.
10. Use of a polyolefin comprising 0.02 to 4 mol% of a compound having polar groups and further having incorporated a compound having hydrosoluble silane groups, and which further comprises 0.0001 to 3 wt% of a silanol condensation catalyst in the production of an insulation layer for a low voltage power cable.